

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



DENISE ALBANO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF DENISE ALBANO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

JANUARY 30, 2019
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 463
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 463 which proposes to require the department to partner with the agricultural community to establish a food safety certification training program to assist small and medium sized farms to be certified by the USDA Good Agricultural Practices certification program. The Department supports the intent of this measure.

The Department currently works in partnership with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH-CTAHR), who performs coaching and training with farmers to comply with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Produce Safety Rule and the USDA Good Agricultural Practices requirements. Under a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, the Department conducts U.S. Department of Agriculture's Good Agricultural Practices audits at the request of farm businesses and restricts auditors from performing outreach and coaching activity.

The Department requests that the funding in this bill be directed to UH-CTAHR for implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
January 30, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 463 – RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 463. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification is important, in fact crucial, for assuring both food safety and farm success. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) strongly supports increasing the GAP training that is already offered by Cooperative Extension. By providing safe and high-quality food to the public, Hawai'i agriculture will increase public confidence in Hawai'i products and serve as a model to other associated and supporting businesses resulting in a consistent contribution to the economy in Hawai'i.

The current activities by CTAHR in this area for GAP training and support, in preparation for certification and that apply to this bill include:

- The Website: **CTAHR Farm Food Safety: Good Agricultural Practices (Science-based education for Hawai'i growers & handlers)** (<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ctahr/farmfoodsafety/>) This website is a resource of training and includes:
 - Tools and Resources (http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ctahr/farmfoodsafety/tools_and_resources/) such as
 - Publications and videos, as well as helpful links
 - Step-by-step process guidelines
 - Dealing with the audit process
 - Outreach materials
- The website: **Consumer Food Safety** (<https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/foodsafety-ces/>)

- 10 extension agents involved in food safety education.
- A Produce Safety Rule Train-the-Trainer held on O‘ahu, expanded the training capacity to 38 people.
- 125 consultations and trainings by extension agents that were provided to the Hawai‘i Department of Education teachers, faculty, growers, health educators, event coordinators, and Master Gardeners working with farms, school and community gardens, and animal exhibits.
- The CTAHR Farm Food Safety Facebook page and Instagram social media presence that was launched in August 2016.

Even with this level of activity CTAHR has not been able to keep up with the demand, and CTAHR is involved only in education and technical support, which is only part of the certification process. Being able to offer more education leading toward certification is dependent on funding to support the training. This bill addresses that need and additional needs that move the farmer toward certification. UHM/CTAHR is ready to collaborate with the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture and other agencies to support the education process related to GAP certification.

One recommendation is that the goal of this bill should include the development of a one-stop website for all users related to food safety issues, making the information easily accessible to all users.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testify in strong support of HB 463.



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January 30, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 463
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Room 312
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports HB 463, which requires and appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to partner with the Hawaii agriculture community to establish a food safety certification training program to assist small to medium-sized farms to comply with the United States Department of Agriculture Good Agricultural Practices Certification Program.

HFB appreciates the support by the legislature in our past efforts to help Hawaii's farmers achieve compliance with the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act. As the actual rule has been rolled out by FDA the immensity of the task is becoming evident.

Foodborne illnesses can be serious and we should seek ways to reduce the risk. This bill will provide that assistance to our farmers for the costs they will incur to become food safety compliant.

The many criteria associated with FSMA to be compliant should not be an impediment for safe food. Hawaii cannot afford to further lose farmers as we strive to increase local food production. We want to incentivize our farmers' ability to continue their operations and provide Hawaii with abundant safe food.

Hawaii Farm Bureau appreciates any effort which will assist farmers with expenses to become compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important subject.



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Barry Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:
Committee on Agriculture
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 30
TIME: 9am
PLACE: Conference Room

RE: HB463 Relating to Food Safety

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Local agriculture is important to HFIA. Small farms in Hawaii face many challenges, including the financial and administrative burden of meeting state and federal regulations. Providing Hawaii farms with the support they need to comply with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Good Agricultural Practices Certification will help to get more local Hawaii produce into the hands of Hawaii consumers. Many of our members require USDA GAP Certification because it confirms that a farm is committed to the highest standard of produce safety and freshness. GAP Certification is also an important first step towards full compliance with the Food Service Modernization Act (FSMA). This bill will help make Hawaii farms and Hawaii agriculture more viable, and help to decrease our reliance on imported food. We encourage you to vote yes on this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-463

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 7:47:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Takemoto	Bayer - Crop Science	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of Mr. Dan Clegg, Hawaii Business Operations Lead, Bayer Crop Science, we support HB 463. Food Safety certification programs that help local farmers comply with market demand is critical to the future of Hawaii's agricultural industry. We respectfully ask your support and passage of this bill. Thank you.



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Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair, Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Wednesday January 30, 2019, 9:00a, Conference Room 312

HB463-Relating to Food Safety

Chair Creagan, Vice-chair DeCoite, and members of the committee:

My name is Kevin Kelly and I am the President of North Shore EVP, a regional economic development organization located on the North Shore of Oahu. Our organization strongly supports the establishment a food safety certification training program that will provide direct assistance to small and medium sized farms in obtaining their USDA GAP certification.

In response to our community's desire to build a food hub to assist small farms on the North Shore of Oahu, we initiated a USDA GroupGAP program that allows farmers to work together and share the expense of obtaining good agricultural practices training and subsequent certification. In 2018 we became the 15th GroupGAP group in the United States and the only such program in Hawaii.

GAP certification is, in practice, a requirement for small farms that want to comply with the Food Safety & Modernization Act (FSMA) and scale their operations to meet the increasing demand for locally grown fresh produce. When FSMA comes into effect for all farms in January 2020, GAP certification will serve as tangible evidence to produce buyers that a producer is in compliance (or very close to being in compliance) with federal law.

Our work is paying off. It is estimated that there are approximately 50 certified farms in Hawaii. Of the ten farms in our first cohort, 2 have received their certification, one is responding to minor auditor findings and will be re-audited, and one other farm will be audited next month. If these four farms are successful we will have increased the number of certified farms by almost 10%! A second cohort of 9 farms is currently in training.

With your support of this measure, North Shore EVP would look forward to working with the Department of Agriculture to apply what we have learned training farmers on Oahu to help farms statewide with the challenges of compliance with FSMA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Kelly, President



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair

Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 2019

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 312 State Capitol

RE: HB 463 Relating to Food Safety

Aloha mai kakou Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 463 relating to Food Safety.**

HB 463 requires and appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to partner with the Hawaii agriculture community to establish a food safety certification training program to assist small to medium sized farms to comply with the United States Department of Agriculture Good Agricultural Practices Certification Program.

Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources and aquaculture to achieve sustainability in our State of our marine resources and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the Native Hawaiian concept of ahupua`a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times.

We need to ensure food safety, strive towards food security and strive to set the highest standards for food quality and nutrition. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 9, ln. 5-16.*

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. DPH supports healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 9, ln. 26-29.* The establishment of a food safety certification training program would assist in establishing this goal.

For the foregoing reasons, OCCLP supports HB 463 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

HB-463

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 8:37:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Cremins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This measure is a significant step toward food security in our state

HB-463

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 11:27:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie A Whalen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-463

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:33:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments: